

Women Who Have Abortions More Likely to Use Drugs in Pregnancy



Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) -- A new study published in a leading British medical journal finds that women who have had abortions are more likely to use drugs during a subsequent pregnancy than those who carried the pregnancy to term. Two university researchers teamed up with a post-abortion research institute for the report, which appeared in the British Journal of Health Psychology.

According to the report, women with a history of induced abortion are three times more likely to use illegal drugs during a subsequent pregnancy. Researchers from Bowling State University, the University of Texas, and the Elliot Institute looked at data from a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The data included information about 1,020 women who gave birth at a local Washington, D.C. hospital in 1992.

While women who had prior abortions were more likely to use drugs in the later pregnancy, women who had miscarriages or stillbirths were not. "Most women have deeply conflicted feelings about their past abortions," said Elliot Institute director Dr. David Reardon, one of the authors of the new study. "Later pregnancies may arouse or aggravate unsettled emotions," Dr. Reardon explained.

"Some women will experience increased anxiety, perhaps about the health of their unborn baby. Others are so awed by the life within them that they begin to question their past choice and feel drowned in self-blame." At least 21 previous studies have linked abortion with increased rates of subsequent drug and alcohol abuse, Reardon added